

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced \$10.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) funding for road and trail preservation at Big Bend National Park.

The funding will allow for concurrent treatment of the park's 123 miles of paved roads, rehabilitation of historic early-20th century officers' quarters and repair of infrastructure damaged by flooding.

"Anyone who's ever been to Big Bend National Park knows what a treasure we have in our district," said Congressman Rodriguez. "I am proud to represent this area and am also proud that the Stimulus continues to deliver on the promise of strengthening our economy while providing needed funds for important initiatives. These projects mean additional jobs and upgrades to some of our district's most historic and environmentally significant areas."

Big Bend National Park Superintendent William Wellman commended Congressman Rodriguez for his leadership and support of what Wellman calls "The Jewel of Texas."

"I can't tell you how happy we are to have the support of a Congressman who truly realizes how important the park and park services are for Texas and beyond," Wellman said. "Big Bend is probably the most remote park in the lower 48 and people come a long way to get here. When they arrive, the only services they have are what the park can provide. They can only drive if the roads are in good shape. They can only hike if our trails are in good shape. And they can only enjoy a river trip if they can get in and out of the river."

Wellman said the Stimulus Act has helped bridge the gap for maintenance at Big Bend, which is critical to allowing people to the amazing resources found at the Park.

The funding announced by the National Park Service also includes:

- \$103,000 for rehabilitation of sewer, septic and potable water systems at Mission Espada in San Antonio

- \$208,000 for removal and debris along the shoreline of Amistad National Recreational Area

- \$309,000 for trail rehabilitation and upgrade to the Guadalupe Mountains Park Visitors Center

- \$46,000 for preservation of a historic brick oven at Fort Davis National Historic Site

The funding for the 23rd

Congressional District comes as a result of cost savings on several large construction projects

totaling approximately \$129 million. The savings will fund an additional 30 high-priority projects nationwide.

For a complete listing of projects by state, visit

http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/nps_arra-project-list_march_2010.pdf

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